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**THE**  
MONTHLY

**GULL**  
BULLETIN

Volume 48

Berkeley, Calif.

November 1966

Number 11

**OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER: MT. DIABLO'S BOB STEWART**

Ranger Robert Stewart, Park Supervisor of Mt. Diablo State Park, will be guest speaker at the **Thursday, November 10th** meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society at the Rotary Natural Science Center near the Lake Merritt duck refuge, Oakland. Mr. Stewart's topic will be "State Parks and Historical Monuments in the Bay Area." Many of us listen to Bob Stewart on KCBS about 7:18 a.m. when he gives his weather observations from the top of the mountain and describes the seasonal changes in Mt. Diablo's plant and animal life. He always notes the date the Say's Phoebe returns to his winter roost under the porch eaves near headquarters. The meeting will begin at **7:30 p.m.** and will be preceded by a no-host dinner at 6:30 at Lovely's Buffet, 336 Grand Avenue at Perkins — a short walk from the Science Center. Visitors are welcome. — MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chairman*.

**NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS**

**November 11 - 16.** We're saving these dates for the National Audubon Society Convention in Sacramento.

**Tuesday, November 22,** Lake Merritt, Oakland. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** at the Rotary Natural Science Center adjacent to the duck feeding area in Lakeside Park. From San Francisco take B bus to Perkins and Grand Avenue. Many duck species (including diving ducks) and also gulls and grebes can be observed at close range. A fine display of mounted and study skins can be seen in the museum. **Leader, Paul Cove!**, Park Naturalist.

If time permits we shall also visit the Audubon Nature Training Center at Aquatic Park in Berkeley, which Golden Gate Audubon Society co-sponsors with the Berkeley Recreation and Parks Department under the direction of Miss Phyllis Lindley.

**Saturday-Sunday, November 26-27,** Gridley and Willows Refuges. **Saturday, November 26,** meet at **10 a.m.** at Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area southwest of Gridley. To reach the Refuge from Gridley, drive west on Colusa Road approximately 4 miles, then turn south on Pennington Road to sign on right directing traffic to the Refuge. It can also be reached from 99E by turning west at Live Oak and driving until Sutter Buttes are reached and then turning north. Driving time from Bay Area

points: about 3 hours and distance 130 miles. **Sunday, November 27** meet at **9 a.m.** at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge 7 miles south of Willows. If you are planning to go on this overnight trip, write **immediately** for motel reservations for **Saturday night** in or near Willows because hunting season will be on and accommodations will be hard to find. When writing to motels, please mention that you will be on the Golden Gate Audubon field trip. (Motel addresses are in *October Gull*). A social evening is being planned at the Blue Gum Motel on Saturday. If you plan to join the group for dinner, please notify Mrs. Valeria DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109. **Harry Adamson** will be the **leader** for this two-day field trip. — MRS. VALERIA DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

Christmas Count: Tomales Bay — Dec. 31; Oakland — Jan. 2.

### CRUICKSHANK TO BRING BEAR RIVER FILM TO BERKELEY

**Allan D. Cruickshank** will present his **Bear River** film at the Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way at Grove Street, on **Thursday, November 17**, at **8:15 p.m.** This is the second film of the 1966-67 Wildlife Film Series sponsored in Berkeley by the Golden Gate and National Audubon Societies. Mr. Cruickshank's film crosses Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho — from melting snows and spring flowers at 11,000 feet, down through canyons and woodlands, valleys and plains, encountering moose, black bear, antelope, elk and badgers. From its source in the Uinta Mountains to its mouth at the famous Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, the Bear River is 650 miles long. At the Bear River Marshes more than 40 species of birds add to the spectacular scenery. Noted as an author, lecturer, and wildlife photographer, Allan D. Cruickshank is a staff member of National Audubon Society. Single admission tickets for *The Bear River* may be purchased at the door between 7:45 and 8:15 p.m. on November 17. (Adults: \$1.50. Students under 18: \$1.00.)

### PETERSON TO SHOW GALAPAGOS FILM IN OAKLAND

**Roger Tory Peterson** will come to Oakland on November 17 to present his new motion picture, *In Search of Eden*. This is the outstanding film story of two trips to the Galápagos Islands photographed by Dr. Peterson. The famous ornithologist-artist-author will personally narrate his film in the Kaiser Center Auditorium near Lake Merritt at **8 p.m.** on **Thursday, November 17**.

Laurel Reynolds is chairman of this outstanding event sponsored by the Oakland Museum Association and the Snow Museum. Tickets are \$2.50 each (O.M.A. members, \$1.50) and may be ordered in advance from Snow Museum, 274-19th Street, Oakland 94612. Please enclose a return envelope. Order tickets early to avoid disappointment. (There are less than 400 available.) *In Search of Eden* will be shown for the first time at the National Audubon Convention in Sacramento. The only other California showing will be this Oakland presentation.

### PETTINGILL TO BRING NEW ZEALAND SPRING TO S.F.

Olin S. Pettingill, Jr. will show his film, *New Zealand Spring*, at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, on **Wednesday, November 16, at 8 p.m.** Dr. Pettingill photographed many interesting New Zealand birds, such as the wry-billed plover whose bill always bends to the right, and the pukeko, a comical little gallinule. We'll also see wingless kiwis, glossy tuis, keas, bellbirds, and royal albatrosses in their native habitats. Dr. Pettingill is the Director of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology.

Tickets at \$2.50 each may be ordered by mail from Golden Gate Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2113, San Francisco 94126. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Golden Gate Audubon is sponsoring this film presentation as a benefit for the maintenance and development fund of Audubon Canyon Ranch. Mrs. Helen Wren is chairman.

### OPERATION SEAWATCH AT POINT REYES

The research committee of Point Reyes Bird Observatory invites you to participate in a study of the visible migration of waterbirds along the coast of the new National Seashore. The procedure involves sitting at designated vantage points, systematically scanning the ocean, and tallying for each species the numbers and directions of movement by 30-minute periods. Birds so far out that they can be identified only as loon sp.? or duck sp.? are also counted — the goal being to learn more about the numbers involved in this coastwise migration at different times and dates. Loons reach peak numbers in November, sometimes passing at the rate of 1,000 or more in a half hour — all three species combined.

On **Saturday, November 5**, our first full effort will include demonstrations of the method for teams near P.R.B.O. headquarters and at the Point Reyes lighthouse simultaneously in both a.m. and p.m. Some time out for land birding in the vicinity can be arranged also. Each team needs at least one scribe (who needs no experience at identification) and two or three observers who know distant waterbirds at least fairly well. Auxiliary counters of nearer birds can also be of great help. If you would like to try this different but valuable type of bird study, phone Miss Marie Mans, 848-5186, or Dr. Howard Cogswell, 581-2201 (evenings) for assignment to a team at the lighthouse, where special arrangements are necessary for admission — or be at P.R.B.O. headquarters, end of Mesa Road west of Bolinas at **9 a.m. November 5**. Other dates will be **November 13, November 19, November 27, and December 10** with the same arrangements. Volunteer groups could operate on other days at their discretion.

### NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CONVENTION IN SACRAMENTO

Dr. Carl W. Buehheister's last convention report as president will be the first major address of the National Audubon Society's 62nd convention on **Saturday morning, November 12**, in Sacramento's Hotel El Dorado. Dr. Buehheister has announced he will retire early in 1967. Senator Gaylord



Nelson of Wisconsin will give the keynote address, "Silver Linings in Conservation." The registration desk for the convention will open at 2 p.m. on **Friday, November 11**, and from 4 to 6 p.m. slides and films will be presented. One of the highlights Friday will be the beautiful film, "The Great Gray Owl," by Warren Larson, Golden Gate Audubon's past president. On **Monday night, November 14**, another local photographer and scientist, Stennett Heaton of Oakland, will use three projectors and three screens to show, through color microphotography, the structural beauty and design in nature. A five-day outline of the convention program and field trips is in *Audubon* magazine, Sept.-Oct.

#### **OPEN SPACE PLANS TO BE PRESENTED NOV. 4**

Open space plans for the 9 Bay Area counties will be presented at a meeting of A.B.A.G. at the Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, on **Friday, November 4 at 9:30 a.m.** Audubon members and other conservationists are urged to attend this important meeting. Robert S. Cornish, principal planner, will be the speaker and he will cover four elements of regional planning: Open Space, Land Use, Shoreline, and Solid Waste Disposal.

#### **LOS ANGELES MUSEUM EXHIBITS ADAMSON'S PAINTINGS**

The Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History is exhibiting waterfowl paintings by Harry C. Adamson, the Lafayette artist and Golden Gate Audubon field trip leader. Fifteen or more of his paintings are being shown in the "Waterfowl of North America" exhibition which opened September 21 and will continue about four months. The Museum address: 900 Exposition Blvd.

#### **COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER**

We wish that the much heralded occasion of Mrs. Lyndon "Ladybird" Johnson's dedication of the Pt. Reyes National Seashore might have been used to publicize the grim fact that only a portion of these lands have become federal property — or that only \$14 million has been appropriated and spent out of some \$53 million now estimated as the full price. Perhaps it was this sticky situation that led National Park Service Director George Hartzog to suggest that after full acquisition half of the Pt. Reyes National Seashore be sold for "controlled private development" which might include some housing tracts. This idea was not well received locally.

Pressures are mounting all around the country toward opening of more wildlife refuges for hunting and other recreational uses. In fact, the National Audubon Society deemed it urgent to plead for retention of an amendment to the Endangered Species Bill, HR 9424, which would restrict to 40% the acreage of a migratory waterfowl refuge that could be opened to any type of hunting. But widespread camping, more roads, and use of power boats on a refuge at nesting time might be equally disastrous. Shouldn't we have more public education in the values and functions of these resources before throwing them open to wide recreational use? So far, the policy has been "One horse for recreation — a rabbit for education."

opines Ernest Swift of the National Wildlife Federation.

As for efforts to preserve some of California's vanishing orchards, vineyards and eroplads, particularly those near metropolitan areas, we find the Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Bill) which gave farmers a tax break has been challenged by assessors, supervisors and others. A constitutional amendment (SCA-4, Farr) is being placed on the November ballot to enable full legislative authority for assessment practices which would help preserve agricultural and scenic values.

*Regional Exchange* is a new informational mailing on Bay Region conservation-development problems now offered by the Citizens for Regional Recreation and Parks. We found the initial issue in August, devoted to actual bay water values and problems, exceedingly interesting. Golden Gate Audubon Society will mail one issue to members and local *Gull* subscribers. — PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

### GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON TO REORGANIZE

Last May President Warren Larson wrote about the Board's proposal to divide the Golden Gate Branch, and asked for your comments. So far, very few responses have been received from the membership.

Carl W. Buchheister, president of National Audubon Society, has written us as follows:

"I have heard from Bill Goodall, our Western Representative, of plans now under way to reorganize the Golden Gate Audubon Society, for the express purpose of strengthening the Audubon movement throughout San Francisco and Bay Areas. May I commend you, your Board of Directors, and your members for this forward-looking project and for your vision in taking those steps necessary to achieve your objective. Your decision to divide and multiply, to the end that more grass root local Audubon Societies may spread throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, is tremendously encouraging to the National Society."

We are a large branch (over 1300 members) and we cover a wide geographical area. The membership meetings often have different attendance on each side of the Bay. Field trip attendance is often so large that the leader has to divide the group into sections. It is impossible for the officers to become acquainted with more than a small proportion of the membership, and we therefore fail to utilize available interests and talents.

Would members participate more fully if the organization were smaller and closer to home? Would membership in the new, smaller chapters increase? Could we work more productively on local conservation issues and other activities? The majority of the Board believes so and a special committee has been appointed — consisting of the president, Dr. Boles, Josh Barkin, Bob DaCosta, Aileen Pierson and Frances Ellen Fallgatter — and is proceeding with consideration of all the factors involved. Later this committee will be expanded to include representatives from the membership at large.

— BERTHA UNDERHILL, *President*.

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**FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

**Alameda** — Between 50 and 60 Audubon members and friends enjoyed the Alameda field trips on September 15 and 17. The weather was good both days, warm and comparatively windless.

The habitat of shore and marsh birds has been sharply diminished during the summer by real estate development on Bay Farm Island, extended dump operations along Doolittle Drive, and Port of Oakland development of industrial property along the margins of San Leandro Bay.

The new offshore dike on Bay Farm Island has locked in sections of former Bay waters so that mudflats are drying out. *What used to be rail territory is completely dry.* Reconstruction of the Alameda golf courses has temporarily denuded that section of the island, and the whole appearance of the northwest section of Bay Farm Island is one of desolation.

The peninsula of land between Airport Channel and San Leandro Creek — the section that Hugo Fisher suggested might be made into a bird refuge — is the scene of recent Port of Oakland activity. The main channel has been blocked off and filling is proceeding rapidly.

The South Shore of Alameda, particularly the section near the Bay end of Broadway, still has many birds, and some good places along Doolittle Road are attracting "peeps" and waders. By careful movement to take advantage of the tide, the Audubon group during the two days was able to record 51 species of birds. A female western tanager was a surprise in Lincoln Park on the first day, and three pomarine jaegers were chasing terns off the new dike on the second day. As ducks come in, this should be a good place from which to see birds on the water. — ELSIE ROEMER, *Leader*.

**Monterey Pelagic Trip** — On October 1st a three-boat trip under the leadership of Alan Baldrige, Ted Chandik, Dave DeSante, Arnold Small and Russell Wilson was enjoyed by newcomers and oldtimers alike. Despite the balmy weather and unusually smooth sea, sometimes like glass, birds were in good numbers and could be studied at very close range. Some of the highlights included 30 pink-footed, **1 pale-footed**, 30 New Zealand, 1 Manx and about 600 sooty shearwaters; 10 ashy and 40 black petrels; 40 pomarine and 28 parasitic jaegers, some in the dark color phase; **2 skuas**; around 1,000 Sabine's gulls in various plumages, including breeding; 1 black-legged kittiwake; a single black tern with a flock of Arctic and a few common terns; 1 ancient and 4 Xantus' murrelets; about 145 Cassin's and 3 rhinoceros auklets. Fish and mammals were also abundant. A male elephant seal and 2 or more whales, probably Humpbacks, completed a perfect day at sea.

September 30, the day before the pelagic trip, Ellen Stephenson of Pasadena saw a **thick-billed murre** (*Uria lomvia*) in breeding plumage close in off the Coast Guard pier in Monterey Harbor. Upon returning from the pelagic trip on Saturday, the three boats searched for the murre, but apparently it had moved out of the area. Sunday morning, October 2,



Arnold Small and Olga and Herbert Clarke from Los Angeles went out in a small motor-boat and found the murre about a half mile from the Coast Guard pier and photographed it from between 5 and 10 feet away. As a result of their successful jaunt, many Audubonites rented small boats and saw the thick-billed murre — often so close that binoculars were not needed. The white line at the base of the bill was not readily seen until one approached within 25 to 30 feet of the bird. On the other hand, the shorter neck — heavier head and heavier and shorter bill in comparison with the common murre, with which the thick-billed murre was feeding — was an excellent field mark. A sketch of bill comparison was made by Alan Baldrige. Many thanks to Mrs. Stephenson, Arnold Small and the Clarkes for pursuing the thick-billed murre. — VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

**OBSERVATIONS** — Aug. 19 — A tufted puffin in breeding plumage was found walking in the grass on the east side of Tomales Bay, near Highway 1, by Marjorie and Robert Catheart and Jackie Watkins.

Aug. 25 — Val DaCosta and Ailee Williams saw a Franklin's gull at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin County.

Early in Sept. Josh Barkin found a saw-whet owl on UC campus, Berkeley.

Sept. 17-18 — Carlyle Sather and Val DaCosta watched a rough-legged hawk at Rodeo Lagoon.

Sept. 18 — Hans Meinhardt saw 6 golden plovers at Lawson's Landing, south of Dillon Beach, Marin County.

Sept. 19 — Hans Meinhardt found a male **rose-breasted grosbeak** (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) in fall plumage in an oak tree on the Jewel Lake Trail, Tilden Park, Berkeley. Ten birders saw it in the same tree Sept. 20.

Sept. 20 — Elsie Roemer spotted a sora at Jewel Lake, Tilden Park.

Sept. 21 — Hans Meinhardt found a **Canada warbler** (*Wilsonia canadensis*) at North Lake, Golden Gate Park.

Sept. 22 — Bertha Underhill saw a Virginia rail and a sora at Jewel Lake.

Sept. 24 — Ted Chandik reported a **roseate spoonbill** (*Ajaia ajaja*) south of Los Banos near Mendota.

Sept. 24 — William Pursell observed a Heermann's gull with large white wing patches at Fort Baker, Marin County. It is only the second one he has seen in such plumage north of Monterey Bay.

Sept. 25 — Jack Whetstone saw a male yellowthroat in his backyard on Curtis Street, Berkeley.

Sept. 26 — Carlyle Sather reported 8 golden plovers at Bodega Bay.

Oct. 2 — Hans Meinhardt found a **red-throated pipit** (*Anthus cervinus*) at Lawson's Landing, south of Dillon Beach, Marin County. Carlyle Sather saw two of them in the same area on October 6.

Oct. 3 — Bud Fry found an American redstart at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin County. At 2 p.m. Betty Dealey and Vi Homcm watched and were watched by a Townsend's solitaire in a madrone tree in Tilden Park Botanic Garden, Berkeley.



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1966

THE GULL

NOVEMBER

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$8.50 per year, Includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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